

2023 Spring COVID-19 Booster Campaign launches early April

Background: Vaccination against COVID-19 is very effective at preventing severe outcomes of infection including hospitalization and death. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization has indicated that individuals with hybrid immunity (at least 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and previous COVID-19 infection) are well protected against severe outcomes related to COVID-19 infection. Thus, fully vaccinated individuals under the age of 80 (or 70 if Indigenous) with a prior COVID-19 infection are expected to receive marginal benefit from the spring booster against preventing severe illness.

Provincial Eligibility Criteria for 2023 COVID-19 Spring Booster:

A spring booster dose <i>should</i> be offered to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals 80+ years of age • Indigenous people 70+ years of age • Residents of long term care facilities, or those on alternate level of care awaiting LTC placement • Individuals 18+ years of age who are moderately to severely immunocompromised • Individuals 50+ years of age with underlying chronic health conditions (complete list available in the BCCDC Immunization Manual, COVID 19 Vaccine Eligibility, Appendix C)
A spring booster dose <i>may</i> be offered to those with no history of prior COVID-19 infection who are:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals 60-79 years of age • Indigenous people 50-69 years of age • Individuals 18-49 years of age with underlying chronic health conditions

Finally, all other individuals 18 years and older who do not meet the above criteria may receive a spring booster based on a self-declared primary care provider recommendation. You do not need to provide a written recommendation.

Vaccine product and interval: A single dose of Bivalent (Original/Omicron BA.4/5) Moderna or Pfizer formulation is recommended at an interval of at least 6 or more months from previous COVID-19 booster or COVID-19 infection. It may be given at 5 months from last vaccine dose in exceptional circumstances (e.g. planned long term travel, a scheduled start of immune-compromising therapy etc.).

Appointment Booking and Vaccine Distribution Process

Individuals eligible for a 2023 spring booster dose will begin to receive invitations during the first week of April 2023 through the [Get Vaccinated System](#). Individuals who have not received their fall booster dose will receive a reminder and a booking link as well. Individuals 18+ who wish to be immunized based on primary care provider recommendation can request a booking link at [Get Vaccinated System](#) or by calling 1-833-838-2323. Vaccine will primarily be available at pharmacies and community clinics will be organized in locations with limited access to pharmacies.

Primary Series of COVID-19 vaccination continues to be available and is recommended for individuals 6 months and older, and one booster for those 5 years of age and older. No boosters are recommended for children under 5 years.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer at 604.675.3900 | Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officers

Chief Medical Health Officer: Dr. Patricia Daly

Vancouver: Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, Dr. Michael Schwandt 604.675.3900

Richmond: Dr. Meena Dawar 604.233.3150 | North Shore: Dr. Alex Choi 604.983.6700 | Coastal Rural: Dr. Moliehi Khaketla 604.984.5070

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